

Michigan Masochists
2001

2:46 pm start from Shakespere Beach. Steve starts off at 72 strokes per minute. Slight swell does not seem to be causing problems at all. Becoming more cloudy, but there are still bits of sun getting through. Lance and Nigel are very absorbed in their Dib Dabs!

00:24 Steve still going well, settled down into the swim. Slight chop developing.

01:01 Brian jumps off the side into the water. Steve gets out ok and is pleased with his effort. Brian is swimming on the left of the boat. He was nervous before getting in. Brian kicking well and breathing bilaterally. Doing 70 spm. Conditions ok.

01:21 Tina is burping in a very lady-like manner, there is no sign that is going to stop!! Brian still going well.

02:06 Tina jumps in, and starts to swim in a circle whilst we pick Brian up. She eventually gets the hang of swimming next to the boat and settles down. She is going at 64 spm. Starting to see shipping near us. Large mobile drilling platform passes. Brian has rubbed badly under his arms as he forgot to grease up. Brian kindly informs us that little Brian has gone on holiday for a while!!

02:27 More sunny now, cloud cover is thinning and wind has died down. Loads of very stupid flies onboard with us, they just sit there while you crush them. Tina looking strong.

03:04 Tina gets out, and is fine, talkative and belching like a true lady. Carrie in safely and seems happy enough in the water. Swimming at 42 spm, but keeping the stroke long.

03:12 Rather large Seafrance bearing down on us, we are now up with the ferry traffic. Getting a bit nippy. All the swimmers are wrapped up warm.

03:31 Tina is cold. Put her in sleeping bag. She vomits into bucket.

04:06 More vomming from Tina. She is obviously not enjoying herself yet. Trying to get her to keep sipping the water. Steve is going well again, he is really giving it some.

04:16 Carrie seems ok now she is out. Has gone downstairs for a sleep. Brian is a little queasy, but ought to be ok. Still in south west shipping lane.

05:04 We are now in the separation zone, Steve really enjoyed that swim, it is flattening out and he was able to go for it. Brian a bit nervous before he got it, he is going strong and ought to have more confidence in himself.

05:31 Has flattened out and wind is dropping off. Brian has got in and swum brilliantly,

he is looking very strong and seems to be enjoying it. Tina has kept more water down and looks like she will be fine for next swim in a while. Beautiful sunset over Dover, really stunning.

06:07 Tina now in, she was shivering before getting in and must have felt quite drained, but I am happier that she has kept all the water down that she has sipped this last hour. In the water she is going strong and has put the sickness behind her. Brian said that he did not enjoy his last swim, which surprised me for someone that was looking so strong. I think he feels under pressure and doesn't want to be the weak link, but he doesn't need to worry as he is such a sturdy chap. A good hour Brian, well done.

06:28 Wind is getting a bit gusty, water chopping up for Tina, hope it doesn't last.

07:10 Tina out and ok. Not too cold when she got out. We've tied 2 light sticks to the boat to help Carrie see it. Very dark now. Brian still asleep, I hope he is feeling better.

07:20 Carrie not enjoying the seaweed!! They have apparently spotted Venus!

08:09 Not too nice at the moment. Force 4-5 from west and Steve is swimming on the right of the boat so is getting the weather. Says back hurts if on portside. Swimming well. Carrie vomits after 5 minutes of getting out. Now changed and has gone down for a sleep.

08:34 Lots of white horses, getting worse. Some waves are breaking over Steve and he is doing a great job dealing with it. Now are out of the North-east shipping lane and they like the sound of being in the inshore waters. We're doing well.

09:08 2.5 miles of Cap Gris-nez. Brian in, coping with shit conditions well. Carrie asleep. Tina is cocooned in sleeping bag and woolly hat and has not moved from her seat for last 1.5 hours, am wondering if she will move in a while for her swim! She is perking up.

09:46 We get Tina ready to swim. She prepares herself with several fine burps and I am just waiting for her rendition of the alphabet in burps, I am sure it is coming!

10:15 We finish at 1.01am. Tina made a great effort and was a true hero in her rock climbing. Well done guys that was a great swim, a great time for such shit conditions. You are now Channel swimmers and ought to be proud of yourselves. AWESOME.

Yours

Nick Adams